

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1213

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13384

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, UN

SUBJECT: PLO/GOL CONTACTS RE UNGA DEBATE

REF: BEIRUT 13366

1. I CALLED ON BOUTROS BID THIS MORNING, AND HE RECOUNTED THE FOLLOWING. AFTER I SAW HIM YESTERDAY, WALID KHALIDY HAPPENED TO CALL ON HIM DURING THE COURSE OF THE AFTERNOON. DIB ALLOWED AS HOW HE HAD HEARD ABOUT KHALIDY'S SPEECH AT CHEMLAN AND CONGRATULATED HIM ON WHAT HE HE HAD SAID. KHALIDY TOLD DIB THAT HE WAS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY 'ARAFAT TO TAKE THIS LINE. KHALIDY ADDED THAT HE AND OTHER MODERATES HAVE BEEN TRYING TO IMPRESS ON 'ARAFAT THAT HE IS NO LONGER A REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY LEADER BUT NOW IS A STATEMAN AND HE MUST ACT ACCORDINGLY-- EVEN GOING SO FAR AS TO SHAVE OR GROW A NORMAL BEARD.

2. KHALIDY CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT 'ARAFAT WAS OBVIOUSLY ALSO UNDER IMMODERATE OR LEFTIST PRESSURES. HE, THEREFORE, CANNOT GO AS FAR AS THE KHALIDYS OF THIS WORLD WOULD LIKE. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, HIS SPEECH WILL BE MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, DIB TOLD KHALIDY OF CONVERSATIONS HE HAD IN PARIS WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS INCLUDING
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DE COMINES OF THE QUAI. DE COMINES HAD IMPRESSED

UPON DIB THE FACT THAT 'ARAFAT SHOULD NOT ONLY BEAR
IN MIND SAUVAGNARHES' ADVISE TO HIM (EMBTel 12081) BUT MUST
PRESENT A POSITION IN NEW YORK THAT FRANCE AND OTHER WESTER
POWERS CAN ACCEPT. IT WOULD NOT SERVE THE ARAB CAUSE
IF 'ARAFAT IN NEW YORK ONLY HAD ARAB, COMMUNIST, AND
AFRICAN SUPPORT.

4. DIB SAID KHALIDY CONCURRED COMPLETELY AND THIS
WAS THE LINE BEING TAKEN BY THE MODERATES AROUND 'ARAFAT.

5. WHILE I WAS TALKING TO DIB, KHALIDY CALLED TO SAY
THAT 'ARAFAT ACCEPTED FRANGIE'S INVITATION FOR LUNCH
TODAY. 'ARAFAT COULD NOT SE THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY
FOR HE WAS DETAINED IN DAMASCUS BUT RETURNED TO BEIRUT
THIS MORNING.

6. DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH DIB THERE WAS NO RPT
NO INDICATION THAT PRESIDENT FRANGIE WOULD BE SEEKING
A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD OR WOULD BE GOING TO
WASHINGTON. IT WOULD BE NOTED FROM ANOTHER TELGRAM
WE ARE SENDING OUT ON FRANGIE'S PARTY THAT FRANGIE
CURRENTLY PLANS TO DEPART NEW YORK NON NY LOCAL TIME THURS,
NOVEMBER 14. DIB MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THIS CURRENT
THINKING AND MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO SOME CHANGE.

7. DIB ID, HOWEVER, INQUIRE WHETHER I HAD ANY WORD
FROM THE SECRETARY ABOUT A MEETING WITH FONMIN TAQLA.
I SAID I HAD NONE.

8. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT SOMEONE WITHER FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OR FROM USDEL NEW YORK CONTACT DIB ASAP
AFTER HIS ARRIVAL PARTICULARLY IF THE SECRETARY DOES NOT SEE TAQLA
PRIOR TO FRANGIE'S SPEECH. DIB IS UNQUESTIONABLY NOT
ONLY ONE OF OUR BEST FRIENDS IN THE LEBANON BUT ALSO
CARRIES MUCH WEIGHT WITH TAQLA AND FRANGIE AS WELL AS WITH
MODERATE PALESTINIANS.
GODLEY

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